

POLITICAL PARTIES IN OHIO

IMPORTANT FREESOIL MOVEMENT.

LETTERS OF JOSHUA R. GIDDINGS.

Proposed Coalition of Whigs, Freesoilers, and Maine Law Men.

CALL FOR A CONVENTION.

Plan Repudiated by the Central Whig Organ.

GIDDINGS AND GREELY TURNED ADEPT.

As. As. As.

A miscellaneous call having been issued in

Cuyahoga county, Ohio, for a convention to or-

ganize a new party, to be formed of whigs,

democrats, free soilers, and Maine law men, ac-

cording to the *prospect* of Greeley, the Hon.

Joshua R. Giddings, head free soil abolition

demagogue of Ohio, is pleased to write the fol-

lowing "Giddy Gammon" letter upon the sub-

ject.

THE FUSION MOVEMENT.—LETTER FROM J. R. GID-

DINGS TO DUBLEY BALDWIN, ESQ.

As. As. As.

My Dear Sir—You inquire my views respecting

the proposed coalition of whigs, democrats, free

soilers, and Maine law men, yet I never

withheld it on political subjects.

I have read your call for a convention, and have

noted the editorial in the *Standard* and *Plain*

which I take it for granted that the men who

signed the call are sincere in what they say. Judg-

ing from the character of that portion with whom

I have the pleasure of an acquaintance, I certainly

was unwilling to charge them with any covert

or ulterior motives. I have expressed themselves

freely in saying that they are—

1st. Opposed to the extension of slavery.

2d. That they are opposed to the fugitive law of

1850.

3d. That they are in favor of separating the federal

government from all connection with slavery, so

far as it can be done constitutionally.

4th. That they are in favor of the freedom of the

press to advocate all causes.

5th. That they are in favor of equal taxation.

6th. That they are for the suppression of the evils

of intemperance.

This avowal of principles is in no degree obscure

or doubtful. They are distinctly set forth, and every

reader must understand them. I commend the

entire substance of a freeman's creed: repudiating

slavery and the slave trade in the District of Colum-

bia, on the Southern coast and in the territories. It

states at all efforts to extend the slave trade, and

maintaining slavery in Cuba, or in our slave States, and

condemning the employment of the army in assisting

or murdering fugitive slaves, as was lately done in

Texas, and of using the "Home Squadron," or the

revenue cutters, to enforce the slave trade, as was

the practice of past years. In short, I can see no

reason why any anti-slavery man should object to the

movement. I do not, however, suppose you will

be so ready to accept of the coalition as I am. I

am of the distinguishing virtues of the advocates of lib-

erty, that they will not contend for party names, pro-

vided they can maintain the great basis of all human

rights.

The friends of equal taxation, and of the Maine

law are in the same situation. The platform em-

braces all these; they will, I have no doubt, stand

shoulder to shoulder in the coming conflict; but I

apprehend that the real obstacles to your success

will be found in that attachment which men

have to party names, and party pride, and party

prejudices; to that feeling of personal hostility

which has been engendered between individuals

who have heretofore been politically opposed to each

other. I have myself often been asked, "why I would

consent to act with persons who had heretofore as-

sailed me with great personal bitterness. I un-

iformly answer, "Yes," and thank God that he has

not done so to me. I have no objection to the

support of principle for which we labor; and if either

the whigs or the democrats would embrace the

truth and maintain the inalienable rights of all men

liberty, I would at once say, "Let the democracy

stand," for our work would then be consum-

plished.

Neither of the hunker papers in your city attach

any doctrine or principle set forth in your call. They

will do that. No individual in your city would

be found to endorse the public of your county and avow his

hostility to either of the doctrines on which your

union is based. The call is for those who would

maintain the doctrines set forth in it. There could

be no stronger endorsement of the truth of the call

than the *Standard* of your city evidently re-

jects the movement as a piece of political legende-

ry, and up to effect some object not expressed; to

carry out some hidden design. He, therefore, who

signs that call is not doing so in good faith, but

implying that they are dishonest and insincere. He

speaks of the "primary design of the movement,"

of putting a "judicious ticket in nomination this

year," and of giving the progressives of all parties on

the free soil, or abolition, or Maine law, or equal

taxation, or anti-slavery, or any other party, the

benefit of almost every other object than that of main-

taining the doctrines avowed.

Now, I will say most emphatically, if the object

of the movement is any of those that I have men-

tioned, then the call is a piece of political legende-

ry, and the signers are attempting to play off a trick upon

the public; if the union be merely to put down the

hunker democrats, instead of maintaining principle,

as the *Standard* intimates, then let every honest man

get out of it at once. No individual in your city

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